

Cancer Clinical Trials Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

March 6, 2012

MT Office of the Commissioner of Securities and Insurance, Helena, MT, and by phone

Council members present

Kristin Page Nei, American Cancer Society
Cancer Action Network
Alan Hall for Ron Dewsnap, Allegiance Benefit
Plan Management
Sharon DeJongh, Bozeman Deaconess Cancer
Center
Paul Burns, Cancer Patient
Jo Duszkiwicz, Billings Clinic
Dr. Jack Hensold, Bozeman Deaconess Cancer
Center
Diane Ruff, Associated Employers Group
Benefit Plan & Trust
Cori Cook, EBMS
Cory Hartman, New West Health Services
Marien Diaz, Symetra Life Insurance Company

Council members absent

Monica Berner, BCBS of MT
Paul Bogumill, Mountain West Benefits
Dr. Robert Geller, Billings Clinic
Russ Hill, DOA-Health Care and Benefits
Administration
Michael Foster, Catholic Hospitals
Brendan Steele, Cancer Patient
Ron Dewsnap, Allegiance Benefit Plan
Management
Dr. Ben Marchello, Frontier Cancer Center and
Montana Cancer Consortium

CSI Staff Present

Christine Kaufmann
Amanda Roccabruna Eby – Minutes recorder

Public Attendance

Kathleen Williams, Representative HD 65

1. Welcome by Chair, adoption of minutes, review of agenda, and discussion of deadlines and remaining tasks

The council accepted Allen Hall as an alternate for Ron Dewsnap in order to reach a quorum. The council will approve the minutes electronically after the meeting once everyone has had a chance to review them.

2. Discussion of Draft Report – focusing on sections D and E

The council discussed comments submitted by Ron Dewsnap and Rachel Peura via email prior to the meeting, as well as other areas of the report that raised concerns for members. The additions the came to agreement on for the final report are highlighted in red in the attached document.

3. Public Comment

Kathleen Williams-

Do the insurers on the council agree with number 4? Will they stand up in front of the committee and testify for it? Anything with the word mandate will be dead on arrival, the council needs to use language that says you are trying to solve a problem of exclusions and denials rather than requiring insurance companies to do one more thing. A one page executive summary would be helpful for legislators – Commissioner Lindeen's talking points could be

structured in this format. Change “mandating coverage” to “prohibiting denial.” She is interested in how to further help patients to not get denied care.

4. Break

5. Adopt definition of routine care – Appendix A

The council discussed a few changes to the definition of routine care, the final agreed upon definition can be found here.

6. Discussion on entire draft document

7. Next steps/what do we need to move forward

The council discussed all the issues that still needed further work and decided to recommend to Commissioner Lindeen that they continue to meet after the report to the legislature for the following reasons:

- Develop and conduct a plan for general education on cancer clinical trial coverage.
- Educate self-funded health plans on the agreements the council has come to and things they have learned.
- Build support for legislation.
- Develop a template for information flow on clinical trial protocols.

The council decided to approve the following via electronic voting with a survey

- The minutes from the February 28th meeting.
- The definition included in Appendix A of the draft report.
- Sections D and E of the final report.
- A letter to the Commissioner that CSI staff would draft, outlining all of the council’s recommendations.

8. Adjourn